

Dear Mrs Ziobron,

My name is Jaime Krajewski and I live in the town of East Hampton. I have two sons who attends Discovery Academy in Wethersfield, and one son who will be starting preschool there in the fall. Discovery Academy is part of the CREC magnet school system. I am writing to ask you to please support the continued funding for our magnet schools.

First, let me thank you for your past support for funding for magnet schools in Connecticut. I feel very strongly that my children have benefitted from the opportunities afforded to them through their magnet school education. The school is diverse and on the cutting edge with regards to STEM education and the unique approach to teaching.

Having three sons, I am acutely aware that boys learn, interact and engage in a much different way that girls, and I feel that the STEM education and Discovery Academy's approach to teaching to the individual needs of each student are crucial to the success of my boys, and boys in general. Our school does a fantastic job of keeping the children engaged and challenged, mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. I can say that at the end of his PK4 year, my oldest son was able to recite the alphabet in both English and Spanish, as well as in sign language. He knew sight words that his peers in our town weren't learning until at least Kindergarten. He is now in second grade and reading at a 4th grade level. His math skills are also above grade level. I can confidently say that I do not think my children would be achieving to the levels that they are if they did not attend Discovery Academy. I know that my sons are learning unique skills that are preparing them for higher education and the real world.

As a municipal employee myself, I understand that this is a very tight budget year. As I see on a daily basis, I know that any and everything is on the table for cuts. Without sustainable funding, CREC, which operates seventeen of these innovative schools, will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the costs they charge to local school districts.

I am asking the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of *all* students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of closing the achievement gap and providing all students a chance not only to succeed but also to thrive. As I understand it, the State Board is considering adding more Charter Schools. Before you add any more schools, please adequately fund those that you have established and that are thriving. I urge you to continue funding the schools that are already operating and available and have demonstrated success before you consider funding new school choice options.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our towns and the state of CT. I follow you on Facebook and Twitter and am constantly impressed with your advocacy and ability to be progressive and proactive. We are very lucky to have you as our representative. Please reply and share with me how you will ensure that my child's school's funding will remain in place. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

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